

York County Office
100 County Drive, PO Box 532,
Yorktown, Virginia 23690-0532
757.890.4940/ Fax: 757.890.4033
E-mail: ex199@vt.edu
<http://offices.ext.vt.edu/york>
www.yorkcounty.gov/vce

LAWN MAINTENANCE CALENDAR - PENINSULA AREA 2009 Researched and Recommended Turf-Type Tall Fescue Varieties (Cool Season Grasses) Fescue Lawns

Date	Activity
August 15 – September 15	FERTILIZE. Obtain a soil test every 3 or 4 years and use the recommendations in the most recent test report to determine the N-P-K rates for your lawn; e.g., 25-3-7 or 16-4-8. Apply one pound of actual nitrogen per 1000 sq. ft. <u>EXAMPLES:</u> 4 lbs. of a 25-3-7 per 1000 sq. ft. or 6.25 lbs of a 16-4-8 per 1000 sq. ft.
September 15 – October 15	DE-THATCH or AERATE DE-THATCH. Fescue lawns generally do not require de-thatching, but when overseeding is required, de-thatching enables the seed to settle to the soil more effectively. A <u>follow-up mowing</u> at a cutting height of 1 ¾ - 2 inches is desirable to increase the amount of light reaching the base of the plants, which stimulates new tiller development and seed germination. AERATE. Use on compacted soils. Fescues are coming out of their summer dormancy and beginning vigorous growth, aeration can be used in conjunction with overseeding your fescue lawn. OVERSEED. Use 4 lbs. turf type tall fescue per 1000 sq. ft. Many lawns do not need overseeding each year. <u>Allow new grass time to grow and receive 2-3 cuttings before making further fertilizer applications.</u> CUTTING HEIGHT: 2 to 3 inches. Remove no more than 1/3 of the grass blade when mowing. You stress the grass when you cut too much. Cut only when the lawn is dry. WATER. Deeply every 7-10 days in the absence of rain. Water lawn so that 1 inch of water is applied slowly enough to penetrate to a depth of 4 to 6 inches.

2009 Recommended List of Turf Type Tall Fescues Multiple Varieties – arranged alphabetically/quality of turf dependent on environment (Some varieties are not available locally)

nd
2 Millennium, Avenger, Biltmore, Bingo, Blackwatch, Bravo, Cochise II⁽³⁾, Cochise III, Constitution, Coyote II, Crossfire II^(3,4), Davinci⁽³⁾, Daytona⁽³⁾, Endeavor⁽³⁾, Falcon IV, Fidelity, Forte, Good-En^(3,4), Grande⁽⁴⁾, Grande II, Greenkeeper WAF, Guardian 21, Houndog 5, Hunter, Inferno, Justice, Magellan, Masterpiece, Matador⁽³⁾, Matador GT⁽³⁾, Onyx^(3,4), Padre, Picasso⁽³⁾, Penn 1901, Raptor, Rebel Exeda, Regiment II, Rembrandt⁽³⁾, Southern Choice II⁽³⁾, SR 8250⁽³⁾, Taos, Tarheel, Tarheel II, Tempest, Titanium, Tombstone, Turbo, Ultimate⁽³⁾, Watchdog, Wolfpack.

October	FERTILIZE. Apply a fertilizer in sufficient amounts to provide 1 pound of actual nitrogen. <u>EXAMPLE:</u> 4 lbs. of a 25-6-18 per 1000 sq. ft. or 6.25 lbs of a 16-4-8 per 1000 sq. ft. Allow at least 30 days from the first application of fertilizer until the second. As stated above, allow growing time for new grass before fertilizing. Thus, if overseeding is required, the first application of fertilizer should be applied in mid-August to allow 2-3 mowings prior to October application of fertilizer.
October 15 – November 15	WINTER WEED CONTROL. New grass should be mowed at least twice prior to herbicide treatment. Important to control chickweed, German moss, henbit, dandelion, buttercup, and many other annuals. Use combination of 2, 4-D and dicamba or mecoprop (MCPP). For general applications, use a hose end applicator or pressurized sprayer. Otherwise, spot spraying is more economical and safer for the environment. Do not use dicamba under the driplines of tender hardwoods (e.g., Dogwoods and Maples).

November 1 - **FERTILIZE.** Apply 1 lb. actual nitrogen per 1000 sq. ft.
November 15 Allow thirty days between fertilizer applications.

February 25 – **PRE-EMERGENT CRABGRASS CONTROL.** Use Pendimethalin, Benefin (Balan), Dithiopyr(Dimension), or
March 15 DCPA(Dacthal). Avoid Siduron (Tupersan, Trey). Make the first application when forsythia is in the first week of bloom. (Approximately March 5-10) The second application is product dependent; read and follow the label carefully.

OVERSEEDING. * *Only if absolutely necessary* *. Not necessary every year. If desired, seed 4 lbs. turf type tall fescue per 1000 sq. ft. This seeding will be a poor return on your investment. **CAUTION:** If you use a crabgrass pre-emergent, it will prevent the germination of any seed applied in the spring.

March 1 – **FERTILIZER.** *None.* Using fertilizer at this time over stimulates top growth, which lessens root reserves making
May 1 plants less hardy for summer stress conditions ahead. Fertilizing now will cause you to mow more frequently, and reduce the vigor of the plant during summer.

WEED CONTROL. When mid-day temperatures reach 60 degrees Fahrenheit, apply the combination of 2, 4-D and dicamba or mecoprop (MCP) to further control winter annual weeds, and to control summer annual weeds such as lespedeza and plantains.

DEEP WATERING every 7-10 days in the absence of rain. Avoid frequent shallow watering. Water in early morning. Night watering encourages fungal development.

May 25 – **FERTILIZE.** Not needed if fertilizer was applied in the fall. If you did not fertilize in the fall then limit
June 15 fertilization to ½ lb. actual nitrogen per 1000 sq. ft.

CUTTING HEIGHT: Minimum 3 inches. This keeps the soil surface cool, especially during hot dry weather.

DEEP WATERING. Important. **No night watering.**

WEED CONTROL. If necessary.

DISEASE ALERT. Observe turf frequently for disease outbreak. Act quickly with recommended fungicides; or apply fungicides to prevent initial attack.
Call Extension Office for recommendations.

July **NO FERTILIZER.** Honor the summer dormant period of cool season grasses.

DEEP WATERING. If needed. **No night watering.** Early morning is the best time.

CUTTING HEIGHT: 3 inches.

DISEASE ALERT. Monitor. Act quickly.

Note: All the above are based on the assumptions that soil test report recommendations are being followed and a predominately quick-release nitrogen fertilizer is being used. Refer to publication 430-011 for other fertilizer options.

Web Resources

Virginia Cooperative Extension-York County Local website: www.yorkcounty.gov/vce

Virginia Cooperative Extension website: www.ext.vt.edu

Virginia Tech Turf website: www.vtturf.com